



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

March 10, 2009

To: Energy and Technology Committee

REF: Raised House Bill #6633 – An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Connecticut Academy for Science and Engineering Regarding Consolidation of Energy Programs and a Secretary of Energy

Please find attached a copy of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering's testimony regarding Raised House Bill #6633.

Please note that the Academy's comments are offered for the committee's consideration to align the provisions of the proposed legislation with the recommendations of the Academy's study report – "Preparing for Connecticut's Energy Future" (January 2009) that was conducted on behalf of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

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CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
TESTIMONY

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING: MARCH 10, 2009

HOUSE RAISED BILL #6633

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING REGARDING CONSOLIDATION OF ENERGY PROGRAMS AND A SECRETARY OF ENERGY

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering's study "Preparing for Connecticut's Energy Future" served as the basis for House Raised Bill #6633. The bill is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Academy's study.

Among the findings, the CASE study reported that Connecticut utilizes a variety of agencies, boards and committees to implement programs and react to specific energy issues and related environmental concerns. It was noted that there exists a lack of clarity, long-term vision and strategic planning, interagency communication and coordination, and a designated focal point for overall accountability regarding the effective achievement of defined goals and benchmarks.

The study's findings provided the basis for the study's recommendations including that Connecticut restructure its energy leadership structure by reorganizing and combining existing entities, in particular the ones that already involve many of the same key representatives. The recommendations include the creation, through legislation, of an independent Connecticut Energy Office, to be headed by a Secretary of Energy, a Connecticut Energy Coordinating Council and a Connecticut Energy Advisory Group. The proposed new energy leadership structure would address comprehensive policy and planning for all energy sectors (electricity, space heating and cooling, transportation) as well as environmental aspects of energy issues, such as climate change.

Please note that the following comments are offered for the committee's consideration to align the provisions of the proposed legislation with the recommendations of the study report.

- I. **Bill Title:** An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Connecticut Academy for Science and Engineering Regarding Consolidation of Energy Programs and a Secretary of Energy.
 - ✓ Please change "Connecticut Academy for Science and Engineering" TO "Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering"
- II. **Section 1:** Suggest adding a term of 5 years for the Secretary of Energy to this section. The Academy's study recommended a term for the Secretary slightly offset from the term of the Governor to provide for continuity of service, while still providing in most cases a Governor to appoint a Secretary during a first term in office.
- III. **Section 2(b):** This section states that "In the course of performing the powers, duties and responsibilities pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the secretary shall give consideration to:..." It was envisioned that these goals would apply to the secretary as well as the coordinating council and the advisory group. It is suggested that the language of this section be changed with the following BOLD UNDERLINED TEXT being added to this section as an alternative:

- ✓ “In the course of performing the powers, duties and responsibilities pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the secretary **in consultation with the coordinating council and with input from the advisory group** shall give consideration to:...”

IV. **Section 4(d):** This section cites goals of the advisory group. These “goals” were intended to be tasks of all components of the new energy leadership structure, not specifically the advisory group. Please consider having Section 4(d) moved to a new section – possibly Section 2(c) or a new section immediately following Section 5 and changed to reflect the following or similar introductory language with items (1) – (5) following as currently included in Section 4(d):

- ✓ “To accomplish its mandated goals and responsibilities the secretary and energy office, coordinating council, and advisory group shall : ”

V. **Section 5(b):** Suggest adding a requirement that the transfer of all programmatic implementation activities of the OPM Energy Management Unit to other entities, as follows with BOLD UNDERLINED TEXT being added to this section:

- ✓ (b) The secretary, in consultation with the coordinating council, shall analyze all energy related programs in the state to determine the best way to provide services to program recipients and to achieve program goals and objectives and to determine whether programs may be consolidated. **The analysis shall also include consideration of the transfer of all programmatic implementation activities of the OPM Energy Management Unit to other entities with programmatic implementation responsibilities.** The secretary shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the findings of such analysis to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy on or before January 10, 2010.